IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0027] at page 6, line 24 to page 7, line 12,[1] as follows:

The process chamber 20 has one or more pumping ports 50 that are preferably located on a floor or lower wall 26 of the process chamber 20 adjacent to a process chamber volume 22. One or more pumping cells 60 are each connected to a respective pumping port 50. The pumping cells 60 each preferably include a turbo molecular pump (or TMP) 51 and a gate-valve 52. The pumping cells can also include a butterfly valve, depending on the gate valve configuration and function. The configuration of the process chamber 20 provides for the attachment of any number of pumping cells 60 to pump gas from the process chamber volume 22 depending upon the process being performed and the geometry of the machine. The pumping ports 50 and pumping cells 60 can be provided at the bottom and/or top of the process chamber 20 as required. The proximity of the pumping cells to the process chamber volume 22 can lead to a significant improvement in process chamber conductance and, hence, pumping speed at the substrate.

Please amend paragraph [0029] at page 7, line 16 to page 8, line 3, as follows:

In FIG. 3A, two pumping ports 50 are provided on a floor of the process chamber. The pumping ports 50 are not symmetrically positioned about the chuck assembly 30. In FIG. 3B, a single pumping port 50 is provided on the floor of the process chamber adjacent one side of the chuck assembly 30. In FIG. 3C, three pumping ports 50 are provided in a symmetrically spaced arrangement about the chuck assembly 30. The three pumping ports of FIG. 3C are arranged in a triangular configuration, spaced, for example, in the azimuthal coordinate every 120 degrees. In FIG. 3D, two pumping ports 50 are provided symmetrically spaced about a chuck assembly 30 on opposing sides thereof. Each of the pumping ports 50

[1] The paragraph, page, and line numbers used herein refer to the originally filed specification.

depicted in FIGS. 3A-3D are preferably connected to a respective pumping cell 60, however, alternatively a pumping port 50 can be sealed using a lid 70 as shown in FIG. 3C such that no pumping cell is connected to the pumping port if such a pumping cell is unnecessary in any given process.